

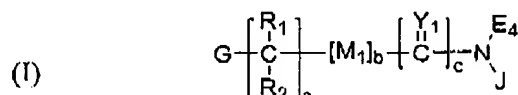
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**Amendments to the Claims:**

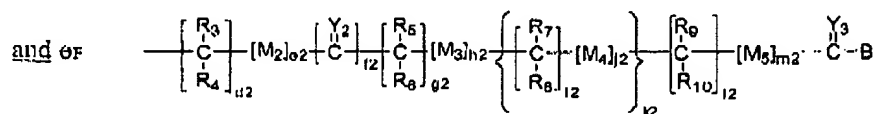
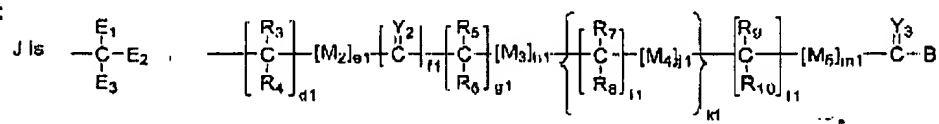
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

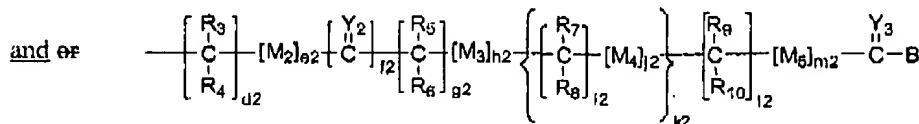
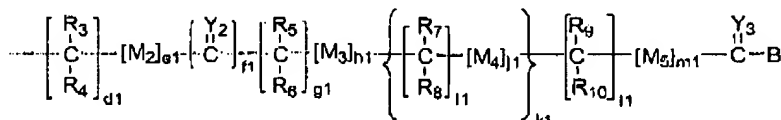
1. (currently amended) A compound comprising the formula:



wherein:



$E_{1-4}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,

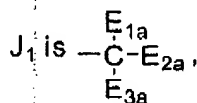


and at least one of  $E_{1-4}$  includes a B moiety;

B is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety, a residue of an amine-containing moiety or

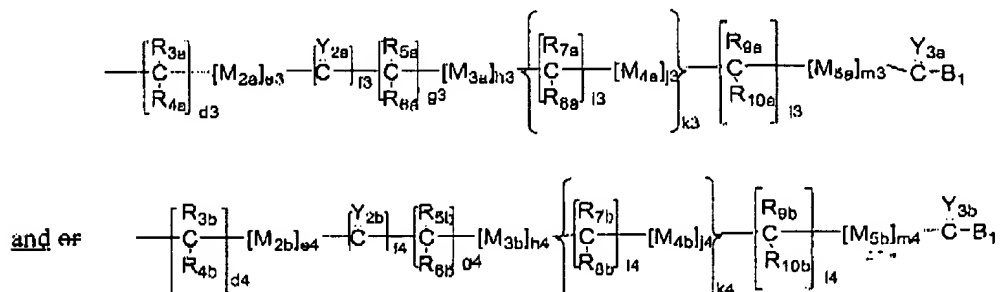


wherein  $E_5$  is independently selected from the same group which defines  $E_{1-4}$ ;



4

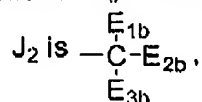
$E_{1a-3a}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,



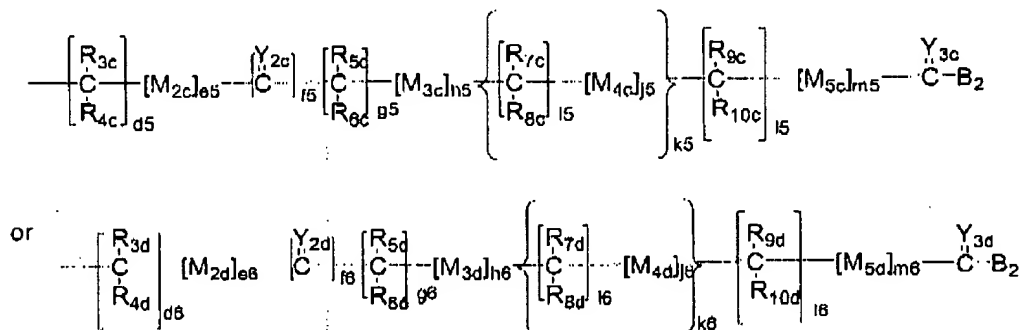
wherein  $B_1$  is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety or a residue of an amine-containing moiety or



wherein  $E_6$  is independently selected from the same group which defines  $E_{1-4}$ ;



wherein  $E_{1b-3b}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,



5

wherein  $B_2$  is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety or a residue of an amine-containing moiety;

G is a polymeric residue;

$Y_{1-3}$ ,  $Y_{2a-d}$  and  $Y_{3a-d}$  are each independently O, S or  $NR_{11a}$

$M_{1-4}$ ,  $M_{2a-2d}$ ,  $M_{3a-3d}$ , and  $M_{4a-4d}$  are each independently O, S or  $NR_{11b}$ ;

$M_5$  and  $M_{5a-d}$  are each independently X or Q,

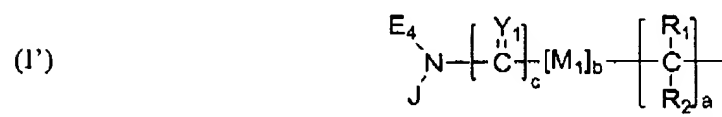
wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from  $C(=Y_3)$  or  $C(=Y_{3a-d})$ ;

$R_{1-10}$ ,  $R_{1a-11a}$ ,  $R_{1b-11b}$ ,  $R_{1c-10c}$  and  $R_{1d-10d}$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy and  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy; and

$a, b, c, d1-d6, e1-e6, f1-f6, g1-g6, h1-h6, i1-i6, j1-j6, k1-k6, l1-l6, m1-m6$  are each independently zero or a positive integer; and

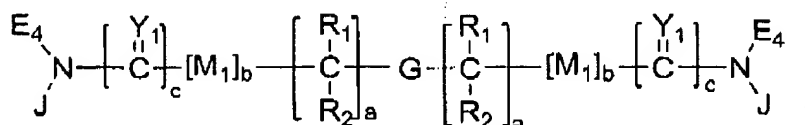
$i1-i6, j1-j6$  and  $k1-k6$  are each independently selected positive integers.

2. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein G further comprises a capping group A, which is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $CO_2H$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl moieties, and



wherein  $a, b, c, R_{1-2}, M_1, Y_1, E_4$  and J are the same as set forth in claim 1.

3. (currently amended) A <sup>6</sup> compound of claim 2, of the formula:



4. (currently amended) The compound of claim 1, where *a*, *b*, *c*, *d1-d6*, *e1-e6*, *f1-f6*, *g1-g6*, *h1-h6*, ~~*i1-i6*, *j1-j6*, *k1-k6*~~, *l1-l6*, and *m1-m6* are independently zero, one or two; and *i1-i6*, *j1-j6*, and *k1-k6* are independently one or two.

5. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *R*<sub>1</sub> and *R*<sub>2</sub> are both H, *a* and *c* are one, *Y*<sub>1</sub> is O and both *E*<sub>1</sub> and *E*<sub>4</sub> are H.

6. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *G* is polyalkylene oxide residuo.

7. (original) The compound of claim 6, wherein *G* is a polyethylene glycol residue.

8. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein *G* is -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>x</sub> or -O-(CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>x</sub>,  
wherein *x* is the degree of polymerization.

9. (currently amended) The compound of claim 8, wherein *G* is -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>x</sub> and *x* is a positive integer so that the weight average molecular weight is at least about 20,000 daltons.

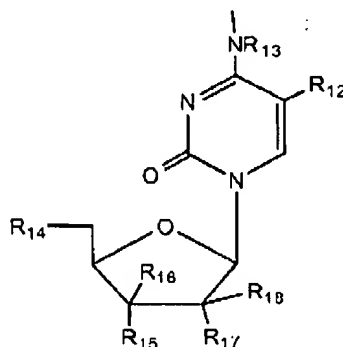
10. (currently amended) The compound of claim 9, wherein *G* has a weight average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to about 100,000 daltons.

11. (currently amended) The compound of claim 10, wherein *G* has a weight average molecular weight of from about 25,000 to about 60,000 daltons.

7

12. (original) The compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of an amine-containing moiety.

13. (original) The compound of claim 12, wherein said amine-containing moiety is

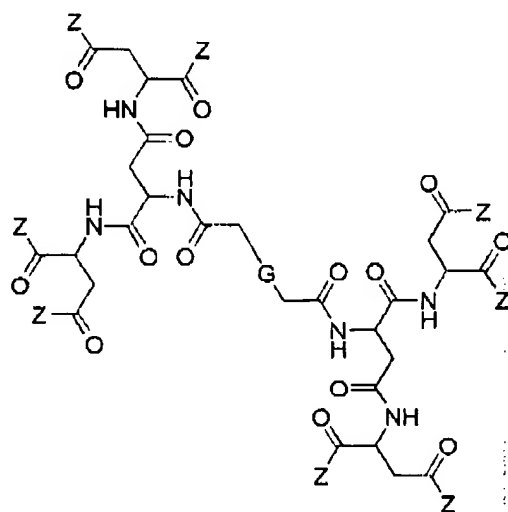


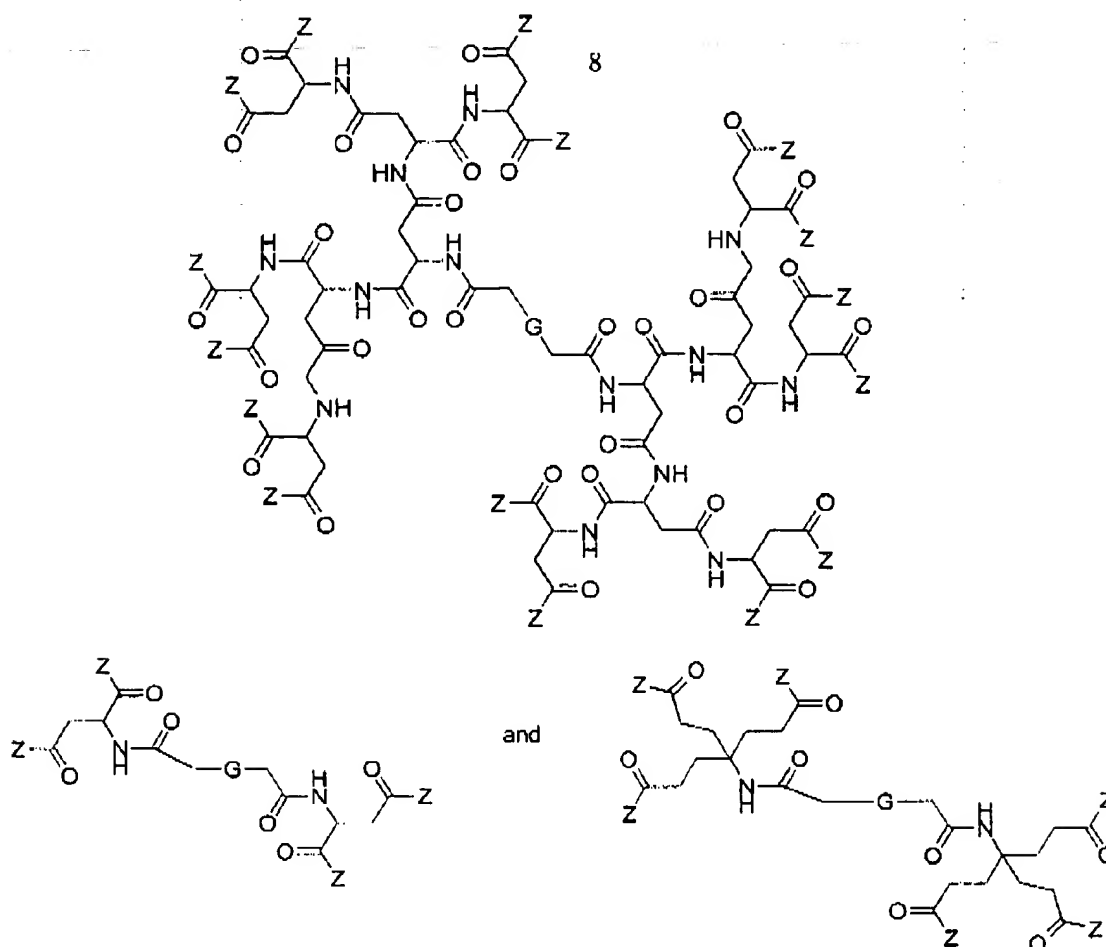
wherein

$R_{12-13}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, halo, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls;

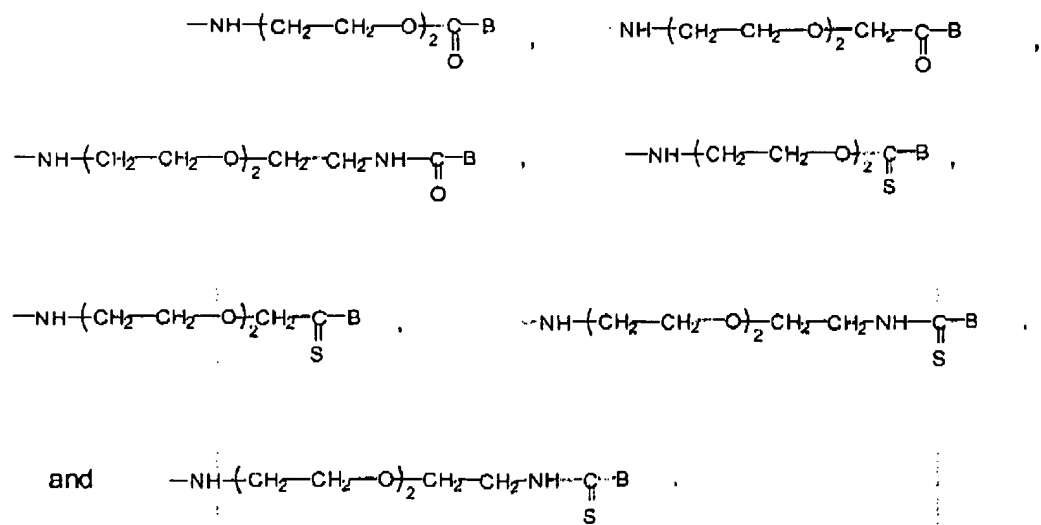
$R_{14-18}$  are independently selected from alkoxy, e.g.  $OR_{19}$  or, in the alternative, H, OH,  $N_3$ ,  $NHR_{20}$ ,  $NO_2$  or CN, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, where  $R_{19-20}$  are independently selected from the same group which defines  $R_{12-13}$ .

14. (original) A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:





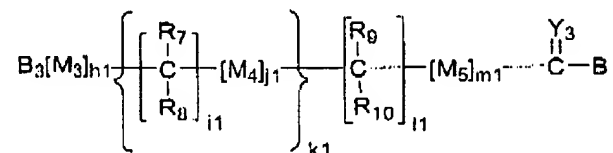
wherein Z is one of:



9

15. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a polymeric transport system, comprising

a) reacting compound of the formula:



wherein

B is a residue of a biologically active amine-containing moiety or a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

B<sub>3</sub> is a cleavable protecting group;

Y<sub>3</sub> is O, S, or NR<sub>11a</sub>;

M<sub>3</sub> and M<sub>4</sub> are independently O, S, or NR<sub>11b</sub>;

M<sub>5</sub> is X or Q;

wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from C(=Y<sub>3</sub>);

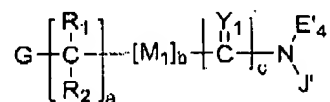
R<sub>7-10</sub> and R<sub>11a-b</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyls, C<sub>3-12</sub> branched alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> substituted alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls and substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls;

~~h1, i1, j1, l1 and m1~~ h1, i1, j1, l1 and m1 are each independently zero or a positive integer;

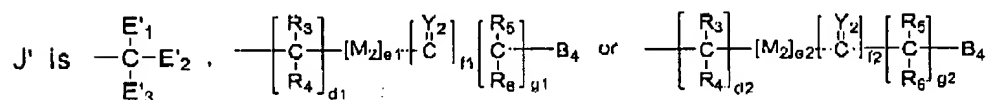
k1 is a positive integer;

b) cleaving the cleavable protecting group B<sub>3</sub>; and

c) reacting the resultant compound with a compound of the formula

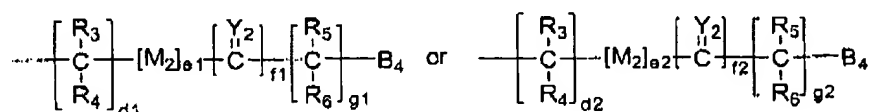


wherein



10

$R_{1-4}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls, substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, phenoxy,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkoxy,



wherein

$B_4$  is a leaving group;

$G$  is a polymer residue;

$Y_{1-2}$  are independently O, S, or  $NR_{11a}$ ;

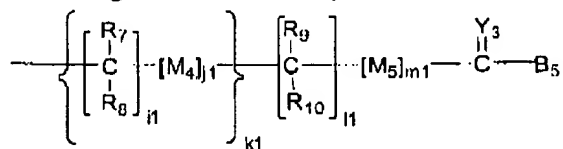
$M_{1-2}$  are independently O, S, or  $NR_{11b}$ ;

$R_{1-6}$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls and substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls;

$a, b, c, d_1-g_1$  and  $d_2-g_2$  are each independently zero or a positive integer,

whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

16. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a polymeric transport system, comprising:  
reacting a biologically active moiety containing an unprotected amino or hydroxyl group  
with polymeric residue containing a terminal moiety of the formula:



wherein:

$Y_3$  is O, S, or  $NR_{11a}$ ;

$R_{7-10}$  and  $NR_{11a}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyls,  $C_{3-12}$  branched alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  substituted alkyls,  $C_{3-8}$  substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls,  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls and substituted  $C_{1-6}$  heteroalkyls;

$M_{4-5}$  are independently O, S, or  $NR_{11b}$ ;

11

R<sub>11a</sub> and R<sub>11b</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyls, C<sub>3-12</sub> branched alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> substituted alkyls, C<sub>3-8</sub> substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkyls, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, phenoxy and C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroalkoxy;

B<sub>5</sub> is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amino or hydroxyl group of a biologically active moiety; and

~~i~~, ~~m~~, ~~i~~, ~~j~~, ~~l~~ and ~~m~~ are each independently zero or a positive integer, and

~~k~~ is a positive integer;

whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

17. (original) A method of treatment, comprising:  
administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.

18. (original) A method of treatment, comprising:  
administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 3, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.